

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of treating a patient suffering from substance (particularly alcohol) abuse comprising administering to the patient medication that includes a dose of clozapine, risperidone or both, effective to reduce alcohol use, or a method of making said
5 medication for treating a patient suffering from substance (particularly alcohol) abuse.

2. A method of treating a patient suffering from substance (particularly alcohol) abuse comprising administering to the patient medication effective to strongly antagonize α_2 adrenergic receptors and to weakly antagonize dopamine D2 receptors, or a method
10 of making said medication for treating a patient suffering from substance (particularly alcohol) abuse.

3. A method of treating, a patient suffering from substance (particularly alcohol) abuse comprising administering to the patient medication effective to rectify an alcohol abuse-associated dysfunction in the DA-mediated brain reward circuit, or a method of
15 making said medication for treating a patient suffering from substance (particularly alcohol) abuse.

4. The method of any one of claims 1-3 in which the patient is not schizophrenic.

5. The method of any one of claims 1-3 in which the medication comprises clozapine.

6. The method of any one of claims 2-3 in which the medication comprises:

- 20 (a) a first component which weakly blocks the D2 receptor; and
(b) a second component which strongly blocks α_2 receptors.

7. The method of claim 6 in which the first component is selected from clozapine, risperidone, olanzapine, quetiapine and ziprasidone.

8. The method of claim 6 or 7 in which the second component is idazoxan, or another α_2
25 receptor antagonist.

9. The method of claim 2 in which the medication is formulated as a single dose comprising both the first and the second components.
10. The method of claim 2 or 3 in which the medication is characterized by a ratio of α_2 blockade: D2 receptor blockade similar to that of clozapine.
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11. The method of claim 10 in which the medication is characterized by a ratio of α_2C blockade: D2 receptor blockade similar to that of clozapine.
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12. The method of claim 6 in which the medication strongly blocks the α_2C receptor.
13. A cocktail comprising
 - (c) a first component which weakly blocks the D2 receptor; and
 - (d) a strong α_2 receptor antagonist.
14. The cocktail of claim 11 in which the first component is selected from clozapine, risperidone, olanzapine, quetiapine and ziprasidone.
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15. The cocktail of claim 11 or 12 in which the second component is idazoxan, or another α_2 receptor antagonist.
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16. The cocktail of claim 11 or 12 in which the cocktail is characterized by strong blockade of the α_2C receptor.
17. The cocktail of claim 11 or claim 12 in which the cocktail is characterized by a ratio of α_2 blockade: D2 receptor blockade similar to that of clozapine.
18. The method of claim 10 in which the cocktail is characterized by a ratio of α_2C blockade:
20 D2 receptor blockade similar to that of clozapine.